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Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Bahá'í International Community

(Special consultative status granted 1970)

Introduction

The Bahá'í International Community, with over five million members from all strata of society organized as approximately 17,000 local communities and 175 national and regional communities, is committed to peace and engaged in a wide range of activities. These activities include but are not limited to fostering grass-roots participation in sustainable development initiatives, advancing the status of women, eliminating racism, and promoting and protecting human rights. Its affiliates worldwide support the goals of the Charter of the United Nations, participate in United Nations special programmes, and celebrate United Nations decades, years and days. The Community maintains offices and paid full-time staff at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. Volunteer Bahá'í representatives serve at the United Nations Office at Vienna; at UNEP at Nairobi; at ECA at Addis Ababa; at ECLAC at Santiago; at ESCAP at Bangkok; and at FAO in Rome.

Global conferences

The Community participated fully in the series of United Nations conferences on pressing global issues — the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo), the 1995 World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen), the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing), and the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul). It contributed to conference preparations, NGO preparatory activities, the conferences themselves and NGO forums. It is now promoting implementation of the resulting global action plans. Bahá'ís from all over the world attended NGO forums in record numbers (over 250 from 40 countries at Copenhagen, 500 from 60 countries at Huairou, China, and 150 from 30 countries at Istanbul). Moreover, a number of individuals contributed several months of volunteer service to United Nations efforts to organize parallel NGO activities.

Ongoing work of the United Nations

Meanwhile, the Community continued its substantive involvement in the ongoing work of the United Nations. It monitored the main committees of the General Assembly and annual sessions of the Council, its commissions, subcommissions, committees and working groups, contributing as appropriate. Commissions monitored included the Commissions on Human Rights (and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities), the Status of Women, Sustainable Development, Human Settlements, and Social Development, as well as the regional commissions. The Community also participated in a number of special meetings sponsored by the ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank. From January 1994 to December 1997, the Community attended over 150 United Nations-sponsored meetings, contributing more than 80 statements and reports. Contributions in key areas of interest are described briefly below.

Advancement of women

For the International Year of the Family (1994), the Community initiated and co-sponsored with UNICEF and UNIFEM an international symposium on strategies for creating violence-free families. Its recommendations were widely circulated, and the symposium was replicated in the Caribbean. For the Beijing Conference, the Community served on the Facilitating Committee for the NGO Forum at Huairou, conducted workshops at preparatory meetings and the Forum, published a booklet of position papers and case studies on issues identified in the Platform for Action, and presented a statement to the Conference. The initial phase of the UNIFEM-funded Bahá'í project "Traditional media as change agent", which successfully engaged men in improving the status of women in Cameroon, Bolivia and Malaysia, was concluded, and a video and training manual were produced. The Community continued as Convener of "Advocates for African food security: lessening the burden on women" — a coalition of NGOs, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations calling attention to the critical role of women farmers in feeding Africa. In 1996, the United Nations included reports on Bahá'í projects in Cameroon and Zambia in a publication prepared for the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. Other reports and statements during this period addressed women's human rights, violence against women, the family, children and the community, girl children, sexual exploitation of children, educating women and girls, involving women in decision-making, the role of religion in the advancement of women and women's contributions to food security.

Environment, development, education and health

The Community participated in processes preceding and including the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, the 1994 Global Conference on Small Island Developing States (Bridgetown, Barbados), the World Food

Summit (Rome), and the Second Biennial World Youth Forum. The Community served on the Planning Bureau for the Forum. It participated in the collective consultation of NGOs on literacy and education for all; the World Health Assembly (Geneva), with its accompanying technical discussions; the Global Forum 1994 (on the theme "Cities and sustainable development" (Manchester, United Kingdom)); the World Business Forum (Habitat II); and an international conference on globalization and citizenship sponsored by UNRISD. It monitored annual sessions of the UNICEF Executive Board and annual NGO/DPI conferences in New York. Following key conferences, affiliates were encouraged to support national and local implementation of conference declarations and action plans. Statements during the period under review recommended changes to the Habitat II draft agenda, and addressed a global strategy for social development, a development paradigm for the twenty-first century, the role of religion in social development, global prosperity and sustainable communities in an integrating world.

Human rights and refugees

During annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Community contributed to deliberations on a wide range of issues. Both written and oral statements advocated the protection of minorities; the right to development; the rights of women, the child and the girl child; freedom of religion; and human rights education. They decried the sale of children; child pornography and prostitution; extreme poverty; violence against women; and racism. The Community participated in working groups on indigenous populations, minorities, the right to development, the rights of the child and agenda reform. In response to requests, it submitted proposals on draft instruments to the Human Rights Defenders Working Group, reports to the Human Rights Committee and Committee on the Rights of the Child, and documents to country and thematic rapporteurs of the Commission. The Community also attended annual sessions of the UNHCR Executive Committee, and participated in consultations between UNHCR and its NGO operational partners.

NGO community work

An active participant in United Nations/NGO activities, the Community addressed the Council's Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with NGOs Committee on NGOs. In New York, it chaired NGO committees on the status of women (1994–1995), human rights (1994–1997), and the family (1994–1996), and the CONGO task force on United Nations reform and increasing access to the United Nations (1996 to present). At Geneva, it chaired the NGO working group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1994–1995). It was Secretary of the CONGO Board in New York, and held offices on NGO committees on UNICEF and the status of women (New York), human rights (Geneva) and the family (Vienna), as well as the CONGO subcommittee on freedom of religion, conscience and belief (Geneva). For the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Community provided a 35–panel exhibit displayed at San Francisco and Geneva; published "Turning point for all nations", a proposal for United Nations restructuring; and hosted a seminar on the subject attended by United Nations officials and one head of State. It also participated in more than 45 special NGO meetings in support of United Nations objectives.

Information activities

One Country, the Community's newsletter, is published quarterly in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and German. It reaches some 30,000 readers in more than 170 countries. The creation of a Web page (http://www.onecountry.org) and an e-mail text distribution service (1country-request@bcca.org) have extended its circulation. *One Country* has reported on all major United Nations conferences held during the last four years, highlighting related NGO activities and Bahá'í participation. *One Country* has also monitored various human rights events and trends, highlighted spiritually based social and economic development efforts, and addressed in its book reviews and editorials such issues as women's equality, globalization, world government and sustainable development.

2. Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)

(Special consultative status granted 1952)

Introduction

Founded in 1951, Caritas Internationalis (CI) is an international confederation of 146 autonomous national member organizations in 194 countries, directed by its statutes to spread charity and social justice in the world. The aims of the organization include information-sharing, coordination and representation among Catholic-sponsored charitable, social service and development efforts. Every four years, the national member organizations of CI gather in its General Assembly to make administrative decisions about the confederation and to formulate a joint work plan. The most recent General Assembly was held in Rome, from 8 to 13 May 1995; its theme was "Justice and solidarity, path to life". On that occasion, the following new National Caritas organizations were affiliated to CI: Iraq, Eritrea, Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. The major issues selected for reflection and action during the 1995–1999 CI mandate included the globalization of the economy (causes of poverty and injustice), the promotion of reconciliation and non-violence, migrants-refugees-displaced persons, and response to emergency situations.

Participation in Council and other United Nations meetings/conferences in New York

CI participated in:

(a) General Assembly sessions (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997);

(b) Preparatory Committee meetings for the World Summit for Social Development;

(c) Thirty-fourth through thirty-sixth sessions of the Commission for Social Development;

(d) UNDPI/NGO annual conferences (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997);

(e) Preparatory Committee for Habitat II;

(f) Thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(g) Annual sessions of the UNICEF Executive Board;

(h) Regular NGO committee meetings (family, sustainable development, human rights, ageing/youth, disarmament, women);

(i) Fiftieth through fifty-third sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. CI submitted written statements and joint oral statements at those meetings on the situation of internally displaced persons and international debt;

(j) Fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions of the Human Rights Committee and sixtieth session of the Human Rights Committee;

(k) Preparatory meetings of the UNHCR Executive Committee, with NGOs and UNHCR. CI regularly presented a joint statement at those meetings;

(l) Council sessions;

(m) UNCTAD special preparatory session (11–15 December 1995);

(n) Review conference of the States Parties to the convention on prohibitions on the use of conventional weapons (15–19 January 1996);

(o) Regional UNHCR conference to address the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and other forms of involuntary displacement in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and relevant neighbouring States (30 and 31 May 1996);

(p) Forty-sixth through forty-ninth sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

(q) Expert seminar on the human rights dimensions of population transfer, including the implantation of settlers and settlements (17–21 February 1997);

(r) Sixth through tenth sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

(s) Sixteenth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(t) Forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions of the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

(u) Seminar on immigration, racism and racial discrimination (5–9 May 1997);

(v) Thirty-seventh through fortieth sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(w) Inter-sessional meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(x) European regional preparatory meeting for the Ninth United Nations Crime Congress (1995);

(y) Third through sixth sessions of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(z) Preparatory conference for the 1994 world forum on the role of NGOs in drug demand reduction (24 and 25 May 1994);

(aa) Review conference of States Parties to convention on "inhumane" weapons (25 September–13 October 1995);

(bb) World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (25–29 November 1996);

(cc) Twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth UNESCO General Conferences;

(dd) One hundred forty-sixth session of the UNESCO Executive Board;

(ee) Twelfth UNESCO/NGO consultation on literacy and education for all (5–9 September 1995);

(ff) Colloquium on the World Summit for Social Development (14 December 1994);

(gg) Celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of UNESCO (16 November 1995);

(hh) International forum on the rights of the child (27 November 1995);

(ii) Fifth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the World Decade for Cultural Development (21–25 April 1997);

(jj) Twentieth through twenty-third sessions of the Committee on World Food Security;

(kk) Twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth FAO Conferences;

(ll) Meetings of the FAO Council;

(mm) Thirty-seventh through fortieth meetings of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes;

(nn) First through third WFP Executive Board meetings;

(oo) WFP/NGO meeting on food aid (10 November 1995);

(pp) Sessions of the IFAD Governing Council;

(qq) IFAD conference on hunger and poverty (Brussels, 20 and 21 November 1995);

(rr) FAO fiftieth anniversary observance, October 1995, Quebec;

(ss) International Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Yokohama, 23–27 May 1994);

(tt) International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 5–13 September 1994);

(uu) World Summit for Social Development (6–12 March 1995). CI prepared a position paper, in collaboration with Coopération internationale pour le développement et la solidarité (CIDSE), in response to the draft declaration and programme of action and on the follow-up to the Summit;

(vv) Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4–15 September 1995);

(ww) United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996). CI and CIDSE prepared a position paper which was circulated to official delegations;

(xx) World Food Summit (Rome, 13–17 November 1996). CI and CIDSE prepared a joint contribution for the Summit entitled "Hunger undermines all dignity", and organized, during the NGO Forum, a workshop on the theme "Code of conduct and global convention on food security".

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

CI actively participated in the UNHCR/NGO Partnership in Action in the process and preparation of an NGO agreement. WFP and CI through its national member organizations, have established worldwide relationships in development and emergency food aid operations. WFP and CI member organizations pursue mutually shared objectives in the field of development and humanitarian assistance, and have complementary capacities which can be enhanced through closer cooperation. In a cooperation agreement of 16 December 1997, UNESCO and CI have decided and agreed to join forces in a spirit of mutual cooperation with a view to achieving their shared ideal. Each CI member may adapt the agreement to local or regional circumstances with the designated UNESCO representative. A cooperation agreement with UNAIDS is currently being prepared.

Other relevant activities

CI participated in the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development by lobbying for the implementation of the Plan of Action. CI continues to maintain delegates at all major United Nations bodies. The CI strategic plan, completed in November 1997, also targets United Nations institutions as major allies in the struggle against poverty.

3. Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

The institutional aim of CNPDS is the promotion of the study and implementation of a system of crime prevention and social control. This task is fulfilled through in-depth analyses, pioneering research and debates, conducted with a multidisciplinary methodology, on the process of social and economic change in contemporary societies and of the demands addressed to political, legal, judicial and social professions. In so doing, the Centro has been performing an increasingly supportive action to the United Nations in the attempt to achieve common aims in crime prevention and criminal justice while preserving fundamental human values and respecting basic human rights.

CNPDS has been the seat of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC) of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme since its establishment in 1990; of the International Committee for Coordination (ICC) among the four major non-governmental organizations active in the crime field, International Association of Penal Law (IAPL), International Society of Social Defence and Humane Criminal Policy (ISSD), International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation (IPPF) and International Society for Criminology (ISC), since its constitution in 1982; and of the general secretariat of ISSD since 1966.

During the period under review, CNPDS continued its multifaceted research activities through its standing committees, active mainly in the legal, economic and sociological fields. The initiatives taken at the international level, in close cooperation with the United Nations, are described below.

CNPDS contributed to the scientific preparation of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 1995), through the organization on 15–17 April 1994, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, Italy of the eighth joint colloquium on criminal justice and police systems, on the theme "Management and improvement of police and other law enforcement agencies, prosecution, courts and corrections, and the role of lawyers", jointly convened with the four above-mentioned organizations, under the auspices of the United Nations. The report of the colloquium was submitted to the Ninth Congress.

From 17 to 21 June 1994, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized jointly with ISPAC an international conference on the theme "Preventing and controlling money laundering and the use of the proceeds of crime: a global approach", in cooperation with the Government of Italy, under the auspices of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Secretariat. Its final report was officially submitted to the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime (Naples, November 1994) and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly.

On 20 and 21 March 1995, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS promoted and organized a conference on the theme "The target family: the image of the family in media productions", in cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat, in observance of the International Year of the Family.

In the framework of the Ninth United Nations Congress, CNPDS organized two ancillary meetings:

(a) One 3 May 1995, a meeting on the theme "Migration and crime: a framework for discussion", which represented the first phase of an in-depth study further carried out through an international conference on the same subject held in 1996;

(b) On 4 May 1995, a meeting on the theme "Role of the public prosecutor in criminal justice, according to the different constitutional systems".

On 15 and 16 October 1995, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized with ISPAC, in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Vienna, an international conference on the theme "Cooperation against crime: the future mobilization of the international community", to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The high number of selected speakers from all the regions of the world gave a broad picture of the activities performed by the United Nations in the fight against crime.

From 30 November through 3 December 1995, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized, under the auspices of UNESCO, an international seminar on the theme "memories and identities: perspectives in the process of change".

On 5–8 October 1996, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized with ISPAC an international conference on the theme "Migration and crime: global and regional problems and responses", in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNICRI.

On 28–30 November 1996, at Lecce, Italy, CNPDS organized, jointly with ISSD, in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Thirteenth International Congress on Social Defence on the theme "Social defence, corruption and the protection of public administration and the independence of justice". The proceedings will be used in a volume which — it is hoped — will contribute to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/59 on action against corruption.

On 4–6 October 1997, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized with ISPAC, in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Vienna an international conference on the theme "Violent crime and conflicts: towards early warning and prevention mechanisms".

On 28–30 November 1997, at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, CNPDS organized, under the auspices of UNESCO and in cooperation with the Italian National Commission for UNESCO, an international seminar on the theme "The school system: cultural pluralism of processes of economic and technological globalization".

CNPDS regularly attended, with its own delegation chaired by its Secretary-General, the annual sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Control at Vienna, and submitted statements on the activities being performed at the international level.

CNPDS has backed the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, giving its organizational support, jointly with ISPAC, to UNICRI for the tenth through twelfth programme network coordination meetings, held at Courmayeur Mont Blanc in 1995, 1996, and 1997.

Through ISPAC, in July 1997, the United Nations Office at Vienna entrusted CNPDS with the production of a study report on the reversal of the burden of proof regarding the apparently illicit derivation of profits and assets in the context of the fight against the criminal economy. The research is being conducted in close cooperation with the Department of Legal Sciences of the University of Venice, on the basis of extensive research, taking into account the normative framework, related to the prevailing legal systems, and examining difficulties arising from and implications related to the constitutional, penal and administrative regimes of countries from all the regions of the world.

4. Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC)

(Special consultative status granted 1972)

Introductory statement and aims and purposes of the organization

The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC) aims to incorporate the principles of human ecology into the practices of development. Those principles focus on an understanding of the relationship of individuals and communities with their natural, social and man-made environments. Through its work, CHEC aims to ensure that the potential for community and national development is achieved without jeopardizing environments and cultures. CHEC's purpose is to bring together government ministers and villagers, scientists and artists, economists, health workers, teachers and religious practitioners, in common action towards individual and global ecological well-being.

The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council was granted special consultative status with the Council in 1972, providing the first formal Commonwealth representation in the United Nations. Until 1995, CHEC remained the sole unofficial voice and action of the Commonwealth in the United Nations, working consistently with Governments, while strengthening institutions and non-governmental organizations, and improving the knowledge base and living conditions at the grass-roots level.

CHEC has played an active participatory role in most of the major United Nations global conferences since the early 1970s, with human ecology introducing Commonwealth professionals, international and national NGOs and Governments to the connections between social, economic and ecological systems and human development. That collaboration has made an organic link between the Commonwealth and the United Nations, whereby the Commonwealth has absorbed United Nations global concepts and the United Nations has gained from the functional flexibility of the Commonwealth, its cultural unity and political and networking institutions.

Through its linkages with UNCED and Agenda 21 and the post-UNCED global forums held at Manchester, United Kingdom (1993 and 1994), CHEC set up a project implementation committee in 1994 to increase institutional strengthening and extend practical programmes. That catalytic framework brought together a number of Commonwealth professional, NGOs and government representatives, aided by UNEP and Habitat and helped by its ties with the Commission on Sustainable Development. Representatives of those bodies participated in the global conferences.

Over the past four years, CHEC's partnerships have widened to include a sustainable cities programme linking local government and community organizations across the Commonwealth. New national chapters have formed in New Zealand/Oceania and Guyana, and also human ecological initiatives have developed outside the Commonwealth, for example developing eco-tourism in Bali, Indonesia, through higher education exchanges.

Participation in the Council, its subsidiary bodies, and conferences and meetings

In September 1995, CHEC convened a workshop at the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing. This was promoted and developed by a committee involving the official Commonwealth machinery — the Commonwealth secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation and a number of Commonwealth professional associations. The theme was "Humanizing sustainability: women in human ecology and environmentally sustainable development", and it enabled CHEC and Commonwealth interests to take a fresh look at projects involving many thousands of women over a quarter of a century, and to strengthen integration. The workshop was oversubscribed, and was sponsored by members of national CHEC chapters: CHEC-Pakistan, CHEC-India, CHEC-Kenya and CHEC-Australia.

At the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994), CHEC's Executive Vice-Chair addressed the Plenary on human ecology developments in small island States. This enabled CHEC to link up with the Barbadian Deputy Prime Minister/Minister for Foreign Affairs. The cooperation was continued in CHEC sessions held during the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting at Auckland, New Zealand.

In June 1996, CHEC led a Commonwealth delegation representing Governments and NGOs to Habitat II at Istanbul. There, the CHEC head of delegation was invited by the Secretary-General of the Conference to address a plenary session and to provide a contribution to a major additional meeting of conference delegates (run by the Secretary-General of the Conference and Peter Oberlander). The Council's activities at Istanbul attracted useful public relations, and media attention was directed at two CHEC workshops, one in the NGO Forum and the other in the government arena, with Habitat in attendance.

A few months later, the Executive Director of Habitat agreed a CHEC/Habitat partnership towards a joint United Nations/Commonwealth programme. In preparation for this, the Executive Director invited a small Commonwealth delegation, led by CHEC, to participate in the Habitat partnership meetings at Geneva (January 1997), prior to the sixteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements at Nairobi (May 1997).

At Nairobi, supported by the Commonwealth secretariat, on 5 May 1997, habitat and CHEC jointly convened all 28 Commonwealth delegation members of the Commission on Human Settlements at a session on the theme "Commonwealth Governments and partners". The participants gave the CHEC/Habitat sponsors a mandate to promote a Commonwealth plan of action for Habitat, and enjoined CHEC and Habitat to present the issues at a forum in the arena of the Commonwealth heads of Government at Edinburgh, in October 1997.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies (see details on the partnership with Habitat provided below)

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

Preparation of projects on a regional basis through a Commonwealth task force is in initial stages to implement the Habitat Agenda.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

CHEC representatives attend United Nations sessions in New York at least on an annual basis, and when possible for extended periods. During those sessions, CHEC consults with officials of the Commission on Sustainable Development (forestry and others), Habitat and the missions of Commonwealth and other countries.

Preparation of papers

In response to a request from Habitat, eight national statements (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Barbados, United Kingdom, Cyprus) on the Habitat Agenda were prepared for the sixteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements (May 1997). In addition, during that session of the Commission, a Commonwealth plan of action was outlined.

Financial assistance and joint sponsorship of meetings

UNEP in 1994 gave CHEC a three-year grant to strengthen its publication service. CHEC's journal and newsletters are published more regularly, and are developing self-sufficiency.

At the second Manchester Global Forum (24–28 June 1994), a post-UNCED major event sponsored by Manchester City Council (to follow on from the United Kingdom Government's post-UNCED meeting on the theme "Partnerships for change" in 1993), CHEC convened a two-day Commonwealth forum co-sponsored by the Commonwealth secretariat and Commonwealth Foundation, with support and participation from the Canadian International Development Agency, UNEP, WHO, the World Bank and numerous Commonwealth organizations. It promoted cross-sectoral participation, with 20 Commonwealth professional associations organizing workshops for 200 participants, including ministers and local authorities, on the theme "Cities and rural sustainable development: coping with the external footprints of cities". This fostered outline projects towards practical steps to meet coordinated needs of housing, water, education and other areas, in an integrated, cooperative approach.

Consolidating CHEC's partnership with Habitat, a forum at Edinburgh (22–24 October 1997) provided the opportunity for a corporate body of the United Nations to contribute to a Commonwealth heads of Government meeting for the first time in the long history of Commonwealth summits. The forum attracted over 200 delegates from 35 countries, with 11 ministerial delegations. The proceedings were chaired by Charles Liburd, former permanent representatives of Guyana to UNEP and Habitat. The responsibilities of the Commonwealth in the Habitat Agenda and in the context of human ecology were identified and an action plan set in motion. The programme includes best practices, capacity-building and institutional strengthening under the integrative umbrella of CHEC and Habitat, and is being brought forward by a Commonwealth task force. The Commonwealth secretariat has since signed letters of understanding to work with Habitat.

Apart from CHEC's broad-based high-level partnerships, national chapters have also continued to work closely with United Nations agencies. For example, UNESCO and UNEP collaborated with CHEC-Pakistan in 1995 to organize a week-long workshop at Islamabad on the theme "Promoting the role of women in fostering environmental education for sustainable development".

Membership description and Numbers

Membership is open to any organization and individual wishing to identify with the worldwide outreach of CHEC and its programmes of human ecology and human well-

being, through its Commonwealth and international network of programmes and partners. CHEC members and subscribers are drawn from 44 countries, including 23 Commonwealth countries, as follows:

Members by region

Africa:

Sierra Leone 2
South Africa 2
Kenya 1
Congo 1
Nigeria 1

Asia:

Pakistan 3
Bangladesh 1
India 2
Sri Lanka 2
Japan 1
Malaysia 1
Viet Nam 1
Taiwan Province of China 2

Europe:

United Kingdom 62
Greece 1
Sweden 2

North America and Caribbean:

United States 6
Canada 7
Barbados 1
Dominican Republic 1
Jamaica 2

South America:

Brazil 1
Guyana 1
Argentina 1

South Pacific:

Fiji 1
New Zealand 6
Australia 9

The categories break down as follows:

Individual members 110

Corporate members (including intergovernmental organizations and governments) 11

Honorary members 53

Subscribers to journal 56

Exchange/complimentary 33

Libraries/universities/NGOs United Kingdom 7, overseas 16

Structure and governance of the organization

The constituent bodies of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council are: patrons (five), including all former Chairs of CHEC; (b) Honorary President and Board of Governors, representing 12 countries, non-voting associate Governing Board members, including active advisers; (c) Office — the administrative coordinating centre of CHEC; (d) Programme Implementation Committee and functional programme subcommittees; standing committee with United Nations membership; and task force. CHEC's collaborative role with Commonwealth professional associations and government machinery in Commonwealth countries is increasing. 1997 saw the consolidation of a comprehensive partnership between CHEC and Habitat. The Council is supported by the United Kingdom Government. CHEC's range of activities is recorded in CHEC publications.

5. Commonwealth Medical Association

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

The main aim and objective of the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA) is to assist and strengthen the capacities of national medical associations in developing countries to improve the health and well-being of their communities, particularly the poorest members of society, whose health status is frequently unacceptably low with only limited access to information and services. While CMA works predominantly in countries of the Commonwealth in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Caribbean, it also involves other developing countries, as well as health professionals other than physicians, in its projects and programmes. Since the membership of the Commonwealth has increased during the past four years, so has that of CMA, with two large national medical associations joining the organization — Australia and South Africa — as well as those of the newest members of the Commonwealth, such as Mozambique.

During the past four years, CMA has worked in the following areas: women's health; adolescent health; reproductive health; and the role of medical ethics in the protection of human rights. A charitable trust — the Commonwealth Medical Association Trust — was established in 1995 to carry out those activities and facilitate their funding. It became fully active in 1997.

CMA recognizes that physicians and other health professionals, due to the heavy demands of their work, are able to spend only a limited time on activities outside their clinical practice. Accordingly, it aims to organize activities of a short time span, which are held "in country", whenever possible. More recently, CMA has begun to develop training modules and manuals which can be used by national health professional associations in providing continuing health professional education for their members.

CMA activities in preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women

CMA was active in meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and at the Conference itself. As Convenor of the Advocacy for Women's Health Group, which comprises international health professionals, reproductive health and women's organizations, CMA organized a number of parallel NGO events, including a round table on the theme "Women's health, including women's sexual and reproductive health", held at Bellagio in early 1994; a workshop on adolescent sexual and reproductive health held in New York at the time of the third ICPD Preparatory Committee meeting; and a workshop on the theme "Adolescent futures: adult fears", held at ICPD at Cairo.

Following ICPD, CMA was instrumental in working with other NGOs to ensure that women's health was fully addressed at the Fourth World Conference on Women. Activities included making an oral intervention and circulating a written statement at the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1995, and organizing a series of round tables at the time of the regional meetings for Europe and Africa in Vienna and Dakar, and in January and June 1995 in London and Beijing immediately before the Conference itself.

Post-Cairo and Beijing

Since the two Conferences, CMA has been involved in promoting their outcomes with national medical and other health professional associations and other concerned groups. It has produced a booklet for health professionals to explain the concept of reproductive health as set out in ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action, and has organized national one-day workshops in 15 developing countries and countries in transition on the implementation of the outcomes of ICPD and the Fourth World Conference on Women with respect to women's health and youth health.

CMA has regularly attended meetings of both the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development since 1995. It has held three international meetings — two interregional round tables, on the themes "Women's health, including women's sexual and reproductive health, as a human right" and "Measuring women's health status", and an interregional consultation on the theme "Medical ethics, including sexual and reproductive health, as a human right" — and has worked with members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in providing background information for a draft general recommendation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on rights relating to women's health.

Adolescent health

Recognizing that more than half of the world's population is below the age of 25, with nearly 85 per cent of them living in developing countries, CMA has been collaborating with the Adolescent Health Programme of the World Health Organization (ADH/WHO) and with UNICEF in developing activities on the health of young people. In 1995 an interregional workshop on the theme "Action for youth health" was held in Mauritius, following which CMA has been working with ADH/WHO in developing a series of training modules on various aspects of adolescent health, such as unwanted pregnancy; sexually transmitted diseases; adolescent mental health; and substance use and abuse. In 1997, those training modules were tested by CMA and ADH/WHO in Uganda and Zambia.

Medical ethics and human rights

The CMA's Guiding Principles on Medical Ethics, which were developed in 1993, are unique in that they represent the only available internationally recognized code of medical ethics to (a) deal with conditions of practice in developing countries; (b) set out the ethical obligations of health professionals to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community; and (c) be annotated throughout with references to corresponding internationally recognized human rights instruments. Several of the principles, including their accompanying commentaries, were quoted verbatim and with approval by the Secretary-General in his report on human rights and bioethics submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session.

During the past four years, the Principles have been widely distributed to national medical and other health professional associations in developing countries, in some cases being adopted as the national code of medical ethics. In many developing countries, health professionals are not provided with any ethical guidance, particularly on human rights implications, with the possible exception of situations where doctors are involved in torture, judicial amputations etc. For this reason, CMA has been working to encourage health professional associations to introduce the teaching of medical ethics as part of continuing professional education, and has been developing a training manual to assist them. The draft manual was developed following a workshop at Dar es Salaam, and has been tested during 1997 in pilot workshops at Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania, and Karachi. In its development of the training manual, CMA has worked closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Liaison with the United Nations Secretariat

During the past four years, CMA has consulted with the United Nations Secretariat and its bodies. Regular meetings have been held with the Division for the Advancement of Women; the Centre for Human Rights; UNICEF; UNFPA; and WHO. In addition, members of those Secretariats have been invited to participate in CMA meetings and projects.

CMA greatly values the opportunities that consultative status provides for the organization in working in the health field in areas of international concern, and its close collaboration with national Governments, the United Nations Secretariat and non-governmental organizations.

6. Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches

(Special status granted 1969)

Aims and purposes

The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) was created in 1946 to ensure, *inter alia*, an effective relationship between the churches and the United Nations. Since 1948, CCIA has been an integral part of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and maintains a consultative relationship with the Council on its behalf. CCIA serves WCC and its 332 member churches in over 130 countries, with a total membership of over 500 million; regional and national councils of Christian churches around the world; and world confessional bodies. Its aim is to inform the churches on world issues, and to assist them in promoting peace with justice and freedom; the development of international law and of effective international institutions; respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including religious liberty; efforts for disarmament; the furthering of sustainable development, economic and social justice, the right to self-determination of peoples; and social, cultural, educational and humanitarian enterprises. The major source of income continues to be from its member churches.

Participation in the Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

CCIA/WCC has participated in most of the major United Nations world conferences held during this quadrennium, and often made substantive contributions to them and their Preparatory Committee meetings, including ICPD (Cairo); the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen), where an oral statement was made; and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing), where a written statement was submitted. WCC facilitated the presence at the NGO Forum at Huairou, China, of 50 women from around the world. Further, CCIA/WCC has participated in their follow-up through attendance at relevant Commission and related meetings (Commission for Social Development; Commission on the Status of Women; Commission on Sustainable Development; nineteenth special session of the General Assembly; and the third meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). CCIA/WCC has attended the Preparatory Committee meetings on the establishment of an International Criminal Court and as an NGO, is an active member of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court.

CCIA/WCC has sent delegations drawn from several regions of the world to meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission, where it has made written and oral submissions on pressing human rights concerns, including the question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment, the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, including the study of situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights; and measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migration workers. Regular indigenous representation has been made to the Subcommission's open-ended working group to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people. CCIA/WCC has cooperated with special rapporteurs and specialized committees through the periodic submission of information and facilitating contacts with human rights organizations, church bodies and victims in situations under study.

In general, broad regional representation, gender balance, and the participation of indigenous peoples and youth have been sought in the delegations formed to represent CCIA/WCC at United Nations meetings and conferences, in order to give expression to the conviction expressed in the Charter of the United Nations that the United Nations is an instrument of the "peoples".

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

CCIA/WCC maintains consultative relations with UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, UNHCR and UNEP. CCIA/WCC cooperates on a regular basis with the ILO, UNDP and WHO, as well as UNAIDS and IOM. It also cooperates with regional intergovernmental bodies, such as OAU, OAS and Council of Europe. In addition:

(a) UNHCR: WCC attended annual Executive Committee meetings and UNHCR staff participated in consultations organized by WCC. Regular meetings were held with the NGO Liaison Office, and with focal points on refugee women and children;

(b) IOM: WCC attended yearly meetings of the Governing Council, and submitted oral statements on migration;

(c) WHO: WCC attended yearly World Health Assemblies and twice yearly Executive Board meetings. WHO/Drug Action Programme annual meetings were

attended by WCC. WHO staff participated in a WCC pharmaceutical advisory group. Joint regional workshops were held in Africa on rational prescribing and drug use;

(d) UNESCO: in September 1994, WCC participated in the International Conference on Democracy and Tolerance, held at Seoul, Republic of Korea. In December 1994, WCC participated in meeting on the theme "The Contribution by religions to the culture of peace", held at Barcelona;

(e) UNEP: WCC attended the 1997 UNEP Governing Council meeting.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

By means of its periodic and occasional publications, WCC assists the public information activities of the United Nations by informing its member churches around the world about a wide range of United Nations activities, and encouraging their participation and support. Subjects include coverage of the major world conferences and their follow-up meetings, migrants, refugee protection and assistance, indigenous peoples, primary health care, HIV/AIDS, women and violence, impunity, climate change, globalization and reports of WCC delegations to the Commission at its second, third and sixth sessions. An issue of *The Ecumenical Review* was devoted to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

In 1994, the International Migrant Rights Watch Committee was established as an independent monitoring body focusing on the situation of international migrants, to include promotion of the United Nations Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.

In 1997, the Ecumenical Year of the Churches in Solidarity with Uprooted People was proclaimed to call attention of churches to the situation of refugees, migrants and other displaced people. The governing bodies of WCC have issued statements calling to the attention of its member churches important United Nations initiatives and issues, such as nuclear testing, the status of Jerusalem, global warming and climate change, Burundi, sanctions against Iraq, Sierra Leone, South Africa, initiatives for peace in Sudan, Rwanda, conflict in former Yugoslavia

WCC has staffed programmes working on the implementation of the world programmes of action for Agenda 21, the status of women, social development, human rights, health for all. Also, staffed programmes include promoting a culture of peace, migrants and refugees, indigenous peoples, youth and primary health care.

Consultation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

CCIA/WCC has continued to follow closely the work of the Security Council, and has corresponded with the Secretary-General with respect to items on its agenda. Through its Geneva central office and its United Nations Headquarters liaison office in New York, CCIA maintains regular working relations with a broad range of offices in the United Nations Secretariat at various levels, including the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian Affairs, Political Affairs, Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, Public Information, and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities

Action by Churches Together (ACT), a consortium which brings together the emergency programmes of both WCC and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) was asked by WFP to support the creation of Food Aid Liaison Unit (FALU) for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Appeal 1996. ACT was requested to serve as "lead agency" for a consortium of NGOs to coordinate staff search and funding for FALU. ACT cooperated with WFP in providing assistance in the Great Lakes Region.

WCC membership

WCC is a fellowship of 332 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches throughout the world. To be a full member, a church must have 25,000 individual members. Churches having fewer than 25,000, though normally at least 10,000 members, are associate member churches. Member churches, by continent/region are: Africa: 80; Asia: 69; Pacific: 15; Caribbean: 11; Latin America: 26; Europe: 82; Middle East: 12; North America: 32. Total member churches are: 132 (in Germany, there are five regional church members which are members in their own right, but also members of the Evangelical Church in Germany, which is the main Protestant church body). Total individual members are: approximately 500 million.